

## THE EVENING FARMER

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 C. A. MENET, Representative.



MONDAY, MAY 24, 1909.

## TAXATION OF BACHELORS, WIDOWERS, ETC.

There have been at divers and sundry times and places propositions to levy taxes upon bachelors, but they have never "panned out." They have generally been in the form of resolutions introduced in State Legislatures, and after being referred to committees have been "shelved" and not again heard from.

Now, however, it has come forward in a new and more authoritative form and with important additions. The Austrian Minister of Finance has, in his annual budget as submitted to the Reichsrath, proposed a tax on bachelors, widowers and childless husbands. Why he did not also include "old maids" does not appear; possibly he may have thought that their unmarried condition was due to their never having been asked to change it, but it is a fact that many "old maids" have refused proposals. Should not the Reichsrath amend the recommendation by including in the list of taxable persons such "old maids" as have refused opportunities of marriage? One might expect a greater hesitancy to "shelve" offers of marriage, for one of the natural instincts is to escape taxation by all possible means. Such a law might be considered a premium on marriage for both bachelors and "old maids," with a lessened chance of that "suicide" so strongly deprecated by President Roosevelt.

The Farmer apologizes for inflicting on its readers these comments upon the Austrian Minister's proposition, and yet the subject is timely. In this country, extravagance in expenditures has forced a search for new sources of revenue, and it is actually proposed to levy a tax on bachelors, widowers and childless husbands. In the form of both National and State inheritance taxes, but also even to increase the multimillionaires with an income tax. If these do not suffice, the Austrian proposition may next be taken up seriously, and thus the matter may be considered of near-future importance.

The Young Turks appear to be real reformers. They are dismissing sinecures and inefficient from the government service, and those slated for dismissal are said to number 27,000. It might be well for our government to import a Young Turk and employ him in weeding out the unnecessary and inefficient from our governmental service. The number might be found to exceed even the Turkish total.

Admiral Beraford of the British navy urges the colonies to build cruisers for the protection of their commerce and for use in the imperial navy in time of war. One, at least, of the colonies has seriously proposed to construct a battleship. Possibly, Admiral Beraford has in mind the possibility of a serious disagreement in the future between the colonies and the imperial government, in which event the possession of battleships by the former might be somewhat disadvantageous to the latter.

The tariff bill reported by the Senate Finance committee imposed a duty of 45 per cent. on automobiles, motorcycles and bicycles, and this was supported by Senator Aldrich with the statement that 45 per cent. was the rate at which the greatest revenue would be produced — that is, that a higher duty would be prohibitory. Thereupon, the Senate promptly voted to increase it to 50 per cent. thus illustrating a previously-noted disposition toward prohibitory duties.

Under the Dingley tariff, foreign manufacturers of automobiles have been contemplating the establishment of branch factories in this country; with a duty of 50 per cent. they are almost sure to do so. This will defeat the purpose of the prohibitory duty which can only serve to bring here the competition of machines constructed upon foreign ideas. In addition, the government will lose revenue. Prohibitory duties are protection "running wild."

A Pullman car passenger had a colored porter arrested in 1906 upon a charge of having stolen from him a card case containing \$20 and the accused who was discharged the next day, brought suit for \$10,000 damages and secured a jury verdict for \$2,500 which was declared excessive by the presiding judge. The case went to the appellate division of the N. Y. Supreme court which last week affirmed the previous judgment that \$300 was a sufficient amount. Following are interesting extracts from the decision which is affirmed:

This man was earning less than a dollar a day, according to his own statement. His cost of wages was there only two or three dollars, and then as to the humiliation and anxiety of mind, he was colored. If he is a colored man, the fact that he is a col-

ored man is to be considered. Is it likely that when a colored man is arrested and imprisoned he feels just as much shame as a white man of any circumstances might? In one sense a colored man is just as good as a white man, for the law says he is, but he has not the same amount of injury under all circumstances that the white man would have. In this community I dare say the amount of evil that would flow to a colored man from a charge like this would not be as great as it probably would be to a white man.

So far as we recall, this decision establishes a new legal principle, viz., that a colored man's humiliation and anxiety under untoward conditions which involve disgrace, are less acute than those of a white man and, therefore, of less pecuniary value in a suit for damages. The court must have evolved this ruling from its legal consciousness, for how such a fact could be proved by evidence, expert or otherwise, passes the average comprehension. Weights and measures do not furnish any standard by which to adjudicate the relative proportions of the feelings of white and colored.

The award of \$2,500 may have been excessive for other reasons, and \$300 may be a sufficient compensation—doubtless it is. But we doubt much whether this discrimination between white and colored feelings could withstand any higher judicial test, however it may accord with white sentiment in the South and however popular it may with Northern whites.

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## EDISON NOW READY TO MOULD HOUSES

Says \$1,200 Will Build Homes Ordinarily Costing \$30,000.

Plumbers Skeptical—Inventor May Have Overlooked Wage Scales in Estimating on Concrete Structures.

New York, May 24.—Thomas A. Edison sent word to the newspapers yesterday that he had completed his scheme for building a concrete house for \$1,200, which, if constructed of stone in the same design would cost between \$20,000 and \$30,000. The fact that Edison included in his \$1,200 estimate the heating and plumbing for the house is construed by practical men to mean he has fixed his figures without previously having consulted plumbers and steam fitters and without taking into consideration the eight-hour day and the prevailing rate of wages. The price he cites could not prevail if only a single house was to be built. That he wants to be understood clearly, what he means is that if the reinforced concrete houses were built in blocks, by his design and through the use of his molds, the cost of each house in a block would not be greater than about \$1,200.

He also says that figure is dependent upon the houses being built on soil which yield sand and gravel from the excavations. Even an estimate of allowance for those conditions, practical builders here in New York said yesterday they felt Edison would find himself in a losing game if he contracted to put up those blocks of detached one-family houses for \$1,200 each, with the plumbing and steam heating apparatus included. Edison was expressed that a mistake had been made in the estimates, and before contracts were entered into for building such houses the estimates would be revised and changed materially.

The Edison housebuilding plan calls for a one-family house, on a lot 40x60 feet. The floor plan of the house is 25x30 feet. The front porch extends eight feet and the back stoop three feet. Each house will contain five rooms and bath, and the cellar will extend beneath the entire house and will contain the boiler, washbasin and sink, and the outside of the house will be richly decorated. The decorations will be cast with the house and therefore will come from the molds as part of the structure and not merely be stuck on.

The entire house will be of reinforced concrete, including the walls, roof, floors, porch, bathtub and the laundry tubs. The only wood in the building will be the doors, door frames, windows and window frames. The inside walls also will be of concrete and there will be no plaster finish. The surface will be smooth and may be tinted or painted, as the owner may wish.

Edison admits this thing is with his plan in working shape it will do much toward relieving the congestion which exists in cities and practically enable every man to own his home or to be a tenant in a detached house at expense—that is, less than the fare — of not more than \$9 a month.

Cast-iron moulds will be used in building the houses, and they will vary in design. After the concrete foundation has been laid and has hardened the moulds will be set up upon it. The term foundation is not to be construed as meaning the cellar walls, but merely a base of concrete upon which the moulds will rest. Edison estimates that the moulds needed to begin the work of building such houses on wholesale lines will cost \$25,000 and that the necessary plant will cost \$15,000 more. At least six sets of moulds must be used to keep the men and the plant busy.

Edison says it will take four days to set up the moulds. The liquid concrete can be poured into them in six hours. The moulds will be kept in use for four days until the concrete hardens and then it will require four days to remove them. That means the house will be finished in a fortnight. With the six sets of moulds, if that schedule is adhered to, 144 houses can be built in a year. The initial cost of the cast-iron moulds will be comparatively great, but they may be used indefinitely, Edison says, and in the long run will be much cheaper than the wooden moulds now used and which, because of their destructibility, decrease greatly the expense of concrete construction.

Edison has George E. Small and Henry J. Harms, Jr., engineers, working with him now. They designed the moulds and have made the experiments. The first house will be poured in sections for experimental purposes and to discover and remedy defects. The entire house will be moulded with one pouring. In other words, a lot of liquid concrete will be run into the moulds and when they are removed that muddy-looking mixture will have been poured into a hard, solid mass. Some home where a workingman can live and rear his family cheaply and in comfort—that is, if the Edison estimates are right.

## FAIRFIELD

The Special Town Meeting—Report by Selectman—Views of Judge Perry—Condition and Theory by Judge Banks—Money Appropriated.

Saturday evening was a pretty bad one for a special town meeting, and the oil lamps which serve to make the darkness visible in the town hall hardly dispelled the gloom. But a small fraction of the legal voters of the town were present to listen to the proposition to appropriate more money for the roads. The large delegation of "kickers," from Greenfield Hill, which was talked of on the streets, failed to appear and few, if any, were from Southport. Half a dozen gentlemen were from the Brookline district and one of them, Mr. Brothwell, was asked to be the president of the meeting. Selectman Fox was present with the facts and figures regarding the past expenditures of the selectmen. He read his report, which appeared to be satisfactory. At least no one disputed it. He said, in answer to an inquiry, that the present board of selectmen had not been called upon to pay bills left over by the old board of selectmen. They started out fresh with the new appropriation. It had been estimated about town that the present board could not be held responsible for all the expenditures, since the old board ran them into debt. This proposition to have been an error.

Mr. Fox in his report said the town at the last annual meeting appropriated for macadam roads the sum of \$3,000. Of this the total amount spent was \$3,361.91, leaving a balance of \$138.09. Of this sum Mr. Fox said he had spent \$2,865.20. For crushed stone he paid out \$102.73; for gravel, \$1,063.47. Selectman Rowe had paid out for the Stratfield and the state macadam roads, the sum of \$987.71. For crushed stone he paid out \$38.58; for gravel, \$332.83. Extra money for the macadam roads had been expended as follows: for oil, \$308; to Patrick Carroll, for oiling, \$1,450; for making a road, \$338. The sum of \$1,341 had been received for oil sold, therefore the total cost for oiling up to date is \$321. Mr. Fox estimated the following estimates for the rest of the current year: For oiling the main road, \$350.00. For care of the main road, \$300.00. For oiling the Stratfield-Tunxis hill road, \$200.00. To pay for the oil used last year and the labor of Patrick Carroll, the sum of \$330.00. Altogether the estimates amount to \$1,450. Therefore the selectmen ask for an appropriation of \$1,500.

Judge Perry opened the discussion in a direct way by asking the Town clerk to examine the records and ascertain whether a committee appointed by the town two or three years ago, to look after the general supervision of the construction of roads, was still in power. The resolution was read and it was concluded that the committee had no authority beyond the current year in which they were appointed. One man in the audience wished to know how the committee could look after the roads while they were in power. Judge Perry continued by saying he thought the question of appropriating more money was a matter of importance to the whole town. It was a matter of principle, and considering the small attendance of voters present, he moved that the meeting adjourn for one week. Selectman Rowe objected to this and said he was anxious to repair the Tunxis hill road, and have it oiled. A postscript means delay. He had spent a lot of money on the Stratfield road, and it would be too bad to let the road go to ruin without oiling. So why not settle the question to-night? The motion to adjourn was voted down.

Judge Perry said his object in moving an adjournment was to get a representative opinion of the town. The meeting was postponed for lack of information, and now we have a meeting with a very small representation of the town. Mr. Brothwell said he knew the macadam roads are being destroyed by automobiles which come racing through town from the ends of the earth. It is generally conceded that oil will preserve them. He asked a question of dollars and cents as to against the roads.

Dr. Donaldson asked what would be the result of an adjournment? Judge Perry replied that there is an extremely small attendance; he wished to be fair to those who cannot get here. He said the people who do not have the advantages afforded by a trolley. These frequent special town meetings are getting to be a menace to the town. Let us have a time when we can have an annual town meeting, with a program, and carry it out.

A motion was then made that the town appropriate the sum of \$1,500, as asked for by the selectmen. Mr. Lobdell asked where the money is to come from. The chair replied that the money will have to be borrowed. Mr. Lobdell was opposed to a call for a town meeting when a tax cannot be laid. He mentioned the fact that the town had a large number of bonds, and that running behind its appropriations, as based upon a 12 mill tax, thousands of dollars each year. He had yet to hear of any attempt to decrease the tax. He said the town was in a bad way. He would stop these special town meetings. Commissioner Pease thought bonds had been paid for the purpose of decreasing the tax. He was admitted that particular bonds may have been paid, but the debt constantly grows larger, there is no decrease.

Judge Banks thought an annual town meeting should be sufficient for all appropriations. He said he did not know the town was so badly off. He said he was not increasing it as rapidly as rate as Mr. Lobdell intimated, but he had not looked into the matter. He said he was a matter of principle. He should not appropriate money at special town meetings and on this ground he felt inclined to vote against an appropriation. But how to bring about the desired condition of making only an annual appropriation, he did not know. Tonight we are confronted by a question and not a theory. We have the macadam roads and the selectmen say they cannot get along without more money. We are confronted by this condition. We have the roads—we must face the alternative and save the roads or let them go to pieces.

The question was asked if there was any money left over from the year which had been appropriated for other purposes, which could be used to help out the selectmen. There was none. Judge Perry said there were some things than an injured road. The growing debt was worse than a road temporarily injured. The town last fall decided how much to spend. It was willing to spend \$3,500 for a year. Have we any evidence that the money has been well spent? Last fall we had a representative meeting, like the one in Westport? Echo answers "Why?" Probably because there is a Man's Improvement Society already in town. Frederick Nettleton has been home from New York, recently. Mr. and Mrs. Henry Parrott of Bridgeport, were not exactly "new" in town—they came over to attend the Red Men's minstrel. Mr. Brothwell thought the town ought to have a road oiled and said he looked at the appropriation in the light of a saving clause. Dr. Donaldson agreed with all Judge Perry had said, and was willing to take him for a guide, and he hoped he would continue talking. He asked if any of the \$3,500 had been used to pay last year's bills, and was informed by Selectman Fox that such had not been the case. He added that the town had had a day's work for a day's pay. By a rising vote the ap-

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proportion was carried, 28 voting for the proposition and 10 voting against, which shows that out of a voting list of perhaps 1,000, 38 votes were cast. Regarding the matter of the town poor it was shown that the appropriation had not been made. It had been published, but there remains in the treasury unused the sum of \$300 for the poor who are not insane. Mr. Fox recommended that no appropriation for the poor be made. The proposition to make an appropriation for dirt roads was laid on the table and the meeting adjourned. Thus much has been cleared up, and many false rumors set at rest.

Many weak, nervous women have been restored to health by Foley's Kidney Remedy as it stimulates the kidneys and they will eliminate waste matter from the blood. Impurities depress the nerves, causing nervous exhaustion. It should be carefully watched and renewed to-day and you will soon be well. Pleasant to take. F. B. Brill local agent. \*135

## STRATFORD

Spraying Trees—Too Much Rain—A New Theatrical Star—Coming Events—The Dollar Meeting—Doings of Home Folks.

Attention is called to the fact that this is the season for spraying trees which have been attacked by the elm leaf beetle. It is known that this insect has appeared in several places, and it should be carefully watched and destroyed before it is too late. People who wish to have their trees sprayed can make application to Dr. Donaldson, P. Haven or Mr. Curtis, and he will inform Selectman Stacey who will do the job. The spraying apparatus of the Village Improvement Society has been put at his disposal. It needs no argument to show the desirability of preserving our shade trees.

The last day of this rainy was too much like March to permit the Bloomers class to go to Pine Rock Park, sit on the grass and eat sandwiches. After the dramas and minstrel shows and whistles which the town has recently enjoyed, everybody is taking a long rest, and the streets are quite deserted. It takes some time to digest all the good jokes perpetrated by the end men, and everybody says the interludes made a stunning appearance. He is a fine looking man, as well as a scholar.

Miss Margaret Arnold of the Washington school is ill. The last day of this rainy was too much like March to permit the Bloomers class to go to Pine Rock Park, sit on the grass and eat sandwiches. After the dramas and minstrel shows and whistles which the town has recently enjoyed, everybody is taking a long rest, and the streets are quite deserted. It takes some time to digest all the good jokes perpetrated by the end men, and everybody says the interludes made a stunning appearance. He is a fine looking man, as well as a scholar.

Saturday was a pretty bad day for a lawn fete, but the foot was justly good and Mrs. Perry could kindly throw open her doors to those who got caught in the rain. A few ladies in a very pretty pink costume, was one of our local young ladies who attended the dance given by the Alpha Alpha's on Friday at the town hall. The young ladies from town were Miss Helen Stagg, Miss Ruth Haven, Miss Arlene Curtis, Miss Sammis and May Beardsley.

Mrs. Amie Holden of North Main street was recently the recipient of a surprise party. She was presented with a beautiful set of table linen. A number of Backsches were called. Mrs. Julian Clinton, Mrs. Walter Oddy, Mrs. Addie Morehouse, Mrs. Frank DeLorme, and the following gentlemen with their wives: Leroy Beach, Print Hale, Zenas P. Johnson, William Perry and William Bear, also Charles Atwood. The usual enjoyable evening was passed.

Instead of a prize debate at the coming commencement of the High school, or essays, there will be some one engaged from abroad to deliver an address. The townspeople remember very pleasantly when Donald Falken graduated, and how many prizes he captured by his silvery tongue, while he was going through the High.

Recent guests in town include Mrs. Joseph Jugnet, Miss Flora Powell who came up from Fairfield, John Small of Bridgeport, W. Barnum, Jr., of New Haven, and Presiding Elder Adams. A club called the July 12 was recently entertained at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Beardsmore. It is almost time the Mysterious 6 were heard from.

For the stormy weather on Saturday a number of out of door entertainments would have taken place. When a lawn fete is announced it is a good sign that the weather will permit. At the recent dollar meeting of the Woman's Aid Society of the Congregational church, held at the home of Miss Alice Parrott, 40 ladies responded to the roll call and many of them related how they earned their first dollar. Some darned stockings, some of the "honey rolls"; some gleaned news items for the papers; and some made the pie mother used to make, which pleased the husbands and the fathers with a dollar or two. After the poems, stories and luncheon, it was agreed to hold a lawn fete in July, and a church supper in August. Both of the entertainments will be popular, and as the ancient one says, "enjoyable."

Selectman A. W. Stacey is now said to be new star in the theatrical field. He has been receiving "compliments galore" ever since he made his debut in the Red Men's minstrel. Mr. Stacey is an all round man. He can take a load of beauties out boat riding, give a straw ride, build a tennis court, or do almost any other popular thing. A funeral in this town costs about \$150. A headstone can be had for \$45. Some people are too poor to get a headstone. Mr. Perry said there was a new boat the "Nancy Van." And the tender is called the "Harriet." He said a number of real estate have recently been sold out of town parties. Why, indeed, cannot this town have a Woman's Improvement Society, like the one in Westport? Echo answers "Why?" Probably because there is a Man's Improvement Society already in town. Frederick Nettleton has been home from New York, recently. Mr. and Mrs. Henry Parrott of Bridgeport, were not exactly "new" in town—they came over to attend the Red Men's minstrel. Mr. Brothwell thought the town ought to have a road oiled and said he looked at the appropriation in the light of a saving clause. Dr. Donaldson agreed with all Judge Perry had said, and was willing to take him for a guide, and he hoped he would continue talking. He asked if any of the \$3,500 had been used to pay last year's bills, and was informed by Selectman Fox that such had not been the case. He added that the town had had a day's work for a day's pay. By a rising vote the ap-

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## COR. WATER &amp; UNION STS.

list.

On Tuesday, June 8, the State officers of the Azalia, O. E. S., will honor their town with a visit. These officers have a delightful and very enjoyable time going from town to town and eating big suppers.

Mr. and Mrs. Wade Cook expect to spend the summer in Maine or near that delightful State. Their cottage on Sutton avenue will be for rent.

It is said that the Ladies' Aid Society of the Methodist church will soon give notice of a coming event. What can it be?

Those who attended Mrs. Julian Clinton's whist had a very enjoyable time last Friday. Fortunately it was held within doors and not under the ill-effects of the weather.

Mrs. Bartlett, mother of Mrs. Ernest Reed, is reported ill with pneumonia. Her husband is repairing the house belonging to Arden L. Judd.

Lester Alden is home from New York. Other young men from that distant city are soon expected in town. The spraying of trees in town has begun. For a week past the heavens have been spraying them profusely.

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1,000 2,500 6 " 1,800

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2,500 4,500 6 " 3,000

3,500 6,000 6 " 4,000

4,000 7,500 6 " 4,500

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